

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 09039 081702Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W
-----002833 081955Z /44
O 081642Z AUG 78
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 9039

NODIS

FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 199607 (TOSEC 90043)

1. I HAVE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY THE POSSIBILITY OF STOPPING
IN DAMASCUS ON MY WAY HOME IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITUATION
IN LEBANON. I CONCLUDED I SHOULD NOT DO THIS BECAUSE OF
ASSAD'S PROBABLY STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT THE COURSE OF ACTION
WHICH WE ARE ANNOUNCING TODAY. I FELT THAT THE DISADVANTAGES
OF TRYING TO SEE HIM IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT OUTWEIGHED ANY
POSSIBLE BENEFIT IN THE LEBANESE CONTEXT EITHER HERE OR AT
HOME.

2. THROUGHOUT THIS TRIP I HAVE ALSO CONSIDERED STOPPING
IN JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. I HAVE ARRANGED FOR ROY
ATHERTON TO GO TO BOTH PLACES AND FEEL THAT THIS IS ALL
THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT AT THIS POINT. ROY WILL HAVE A
STRONG POSITIVE BRIEFING IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT WE HAVE
ACHIEVED ON THIS TRIP AND I BELIEVE THAT WILL HAVE TO
SUFFICE FOR NOW. WE WILL CONSIDER A MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT SUGGESTING THIS APPROACH IN SAUDI ARABIA AND
SECRET

SECRET

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JORDAN AS WELL AS IN OTHER CAPITALS.

3. WE SENT JOHN WEST BACK TO SAUDI ARABIA THIS MORNING
IN ORDER TO NOTIFY THE SAUDIS ABOUT THE TIME OF THE ANNOUNCE-
MENT. ROY WILL FOLLOW UP TOMORROW. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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